

Recent Developments at JPO Relating to Designs

Hague Agreement

International registration system which facilitates protection of industrial designs by one design application filed with WIPO or the applicant's contracting party (JPO)

Applicants can:

- 1) file a single international design application with the JPO or USPTO, etc., as the "office of indirect filing,"
- 2) select multiple Hague Agreement member countries and pay filing fees for each selected country, and
- 3) benefit from the registration becoming effective and enforceable in each of the selected countries.

Using the Hague System will generally be more cost-effective when filing in 3 or more countries (particularly, if the US is one of the countries in which the applicant wishes to obtain IP protection for a design)